

Claims

1. (Currently amended) A nursing aid system comprising:

a breast cup having a concave breast receiving portion, said cup having a hollow generally cylindrical nipple receiving portion located on and projecting away from said concave portion, said nipple receiving portion for grasping by the mouth of an infant, said nipple receiving portion having an end remote from said concave portion and a milk delivery aperture at said end; and

a nipple extender receiveable in said nipple receiving portion, said ~~insert~~ nipple extender having an axial length less than an axial length of said nipple receiving portion, said extender being sized and configured to occupy space in said nipple receiving portion not occupied by a mother's nipple, said extender ~~providing~~ having a flow channel for conducting milk in said nipple receiving portion from a mother's nipple to said milk delivery aperture.

2. (Currently amended) The nursing system of claim 1, wherein said nipple extender ~~is slidably received in~~ slidably engages said nipple receiving portion.

3. (Original) The nursing system of claim 2, wherein said flow channel is provided on an exterior annular surface of said nipple extender, said flow channel extending from a first end of said extender to a location proximate said milk delivery aperture.

4. (Original) The nursing system of claim 3, wherein said flow channel is provided by multiple grooves on said annular surface.

5. (Original) The nursing system of claim 4, wherein said grooves extend parallel to a central axis of said generally cylindrical extender.

6. (Withdrawn by Examiner) The nursing system of claim 1, wherein said flow channel comprises an internal passageway in said nipple extender for conducting milk from a human nipple to said milk delivery aperture.

7. (Original) The nursing system of claim 1, wherein said breast cup is formed of flexible elastomeric material.

8. (Original) The nursing system of claim 7, wherein said milk delivery aperture comprises slit means extending through said end of said nipple receiving portion to provide a normally closed milk delivery aperture.

9. (Original) The nursing system of claim 8, wherein said slit means comprises crossed slits.

10. (Currently amended) A nursing system comprising:

a series of breast cups each having a concave portion for receiving a female human breast, said cups each having a hollow generally cylindrical nipple receiving portion for grasping by the mouth of an infant, said nipple receiving portion located on and projecting away from said concave portion, said nipple receiving portions of said series of cups being of different lengths and each having a milk delivery aperture in an end remote from said concave portion; and
a series of generally cylindrical nipple extenders each receiveable in said

nipple receiving portions, said extenders each having an axial length less than an axial length of said nipple receiving portions, said extenders each being differently sized to occupy substantially all space in said nipple receiving portions not occupied by a human nipple, said extenders each ~~[providing]~~ having a channel for conducting milk in said nipple receiving portions from a human nipple to said milk delivery apertures.

11. (Original) The nursing system of claim 10, wherein said cups are formed of flexible elastomeric material.

12. (Original) The nursing system of claim 11, wherein said flow channels are provided on exterior annular surfaces of said nipple extenders, said flow channels extending from a first end of said extenders to a location proximate said milk delivery apertures.

13. (Original) The nursing system of claim 12, wherein said nipple extenders include spaced surfaces engaging said nipple receiving portions of said cups, said flow channels being between said spaced surfaces.

14. (Original) The nursing system of claim 13, wherein said spaced surfaces extend parallel to central axes of said nipple extenders.

15. (Withdrawn by Examiner) The nursing system of claim 11, wherein said flow channels comprise internal passageways in said nipple extenders for conducting milk from a human nipple to said milk delivery apertures.

16. (Original) The nursing system of claim 11, wherein said milk delivery

apertures comprise slit means extending through said ends of said nipple receiving portions to provide normally closed milk delivery apertures.

17. (Original) The nursing system of claim 16, wherein said slit means comprises crossed slits.

18. (Currently amended) The nursing system of claim 10, wherein said extenders ~~are slidably received in~~ slidably engage said nipple receiving portions.

19. (Currently amended) A nursing aid system comprising:

a breast cup having a concave breast receiving portion, said cup having a hollow generally cylindrical nipple receiving portion for grasping by the mouth of an infant, said nipple receiving portion located on and projecting away from said concave portion, said nipple receiving portion having an end remote from said concave portion and a normally closed milk delivery aperture at said end; and

a nipple extender slidably ~~receivable~~ received in and engaging said nipple receiving portion, said extender having an axial length less than an axial length of said nipple receiving portion, said extender providing a flow channel for conducting milk from a mother's nipple in said nipple receiving portion to said normally closed delivery aperture.

20. (Original) The nursing system of claim 19, wherein said extender is sized and configured to occupy most of the space in said nipple receiving portion not occupied by a mother's nipple.

21. (Currently amended) A nursing aid system comprising:

a breast cup having a concave breast receiving portion, said cup having a hollow generally cylindrical nipple receiving portion for grasping by the mouth of an infant, said nipple receiving portion located on and projecting away from said concave portion, said nipple receiving portion having an end remote from said concave portion, a milk delivery aperture at said end, and a nipple extender integrally formed in said nipple receiving portion, said extender having an axial length less than an axial length of said nipple receiving portion, said extender ~~[providing]~~ having a flow channel for conducting milk in said nipple receiving portion from a mother's nipple to said milk delivery aperture.

22. (Original) The nursing system of claim 20, wherein said extender is sized and configured to occupy most of the space in said nipple receiving portion not occupied by a mother's nipple.

23. (Withdrawn by Examiner) The nursing system of claim 22, wherein said flow channel comprises an internal passageway in said nipple extender for conducting milk from a human nipple to said milk delivery aperture.

24. (Original) The nursing system of claim 21, wherein said breast cup is formed of flexible elastomeric material.

25. (Original) The nursing system of claim 24, wherein said milk delivery aperture comprises slit means extending through said end of said nipple receiving portion to

provide a normally closed milk delivery aperture.

26. (Original) The nursing system of claim 25, wherein said slit means comprises crossed slits.